

Schena, Cristeen

From: Smagula, Amy <Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2013 3:58 PM
To: Nelson, Eric; Snook, Hilary
Subject: RE: Asian clam
Attachments: Merrimack River South_Merrimack Sites.pdf; Cobbetts Pond Windham Asian Clam Sampling Points.pdf; Long Pond Pelham Asian Clam Sampling Points.pdf; Merrimack River North_Bow-Hooksett Sites.pdf; Asian Clam Study Tasks, Personnel and Time.xls; DRAFT SOP for Asian Clam Monitoring_2013.doc

Here's what I've got so far. I don't want to go further with the Scope of Work until I know you guys are on board with scope of monitoring at sites outlined.

Attached you will find:

- Four maps showing the different sample locations
- An Excel Spreadsheet that is starting to outline activities, number of samples, time, staff, etc
- A start at a scope of work (at least the bones), that will be filled out more after I hear back from you.

Amy

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Limnologist/Exotic Species Program Coordinator  
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Email: Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Nelson, Eric [mailto:nelson.ericp@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2013 10:17 AM  
**To:** Smagula, Amy; Snook, Hilary  
**Subject:** Asian clam

Hi:

Just checking on where we are with respect to the sampling plan. Let me know if you think we need to talk about anything.

Thanks.

Eric

Eric P. Nelson

Ocean and Coastal Protection Unit

Unit Dive Officer

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# Merrimack River

## Merrimack Area



### Legend

● Merrimack River South\_Asian Clam Monitoring Points

0 0.5 1  
Miles

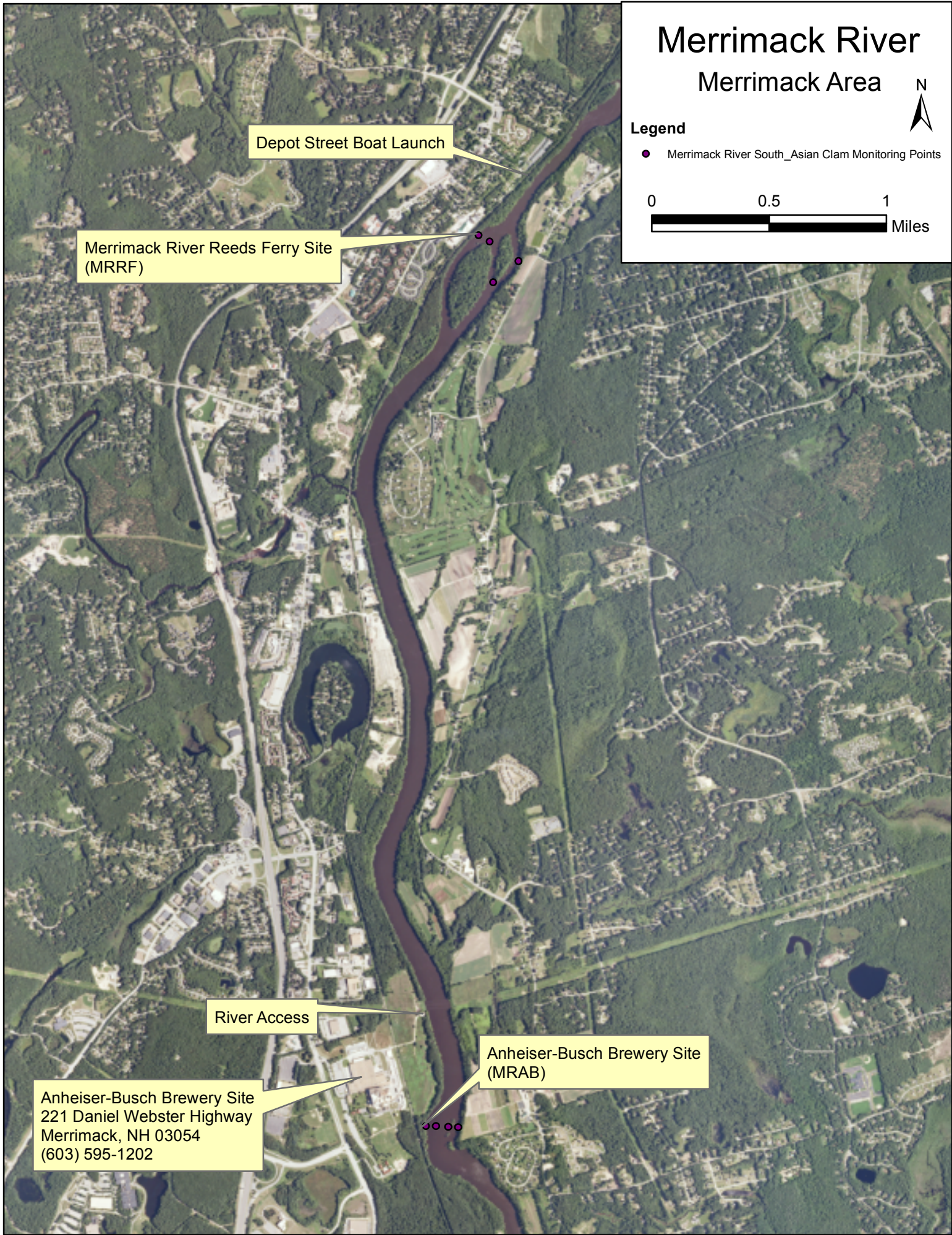
Depot Street Boat Launch

Merrimack River Reeds Ferry Site  
(MRRF)

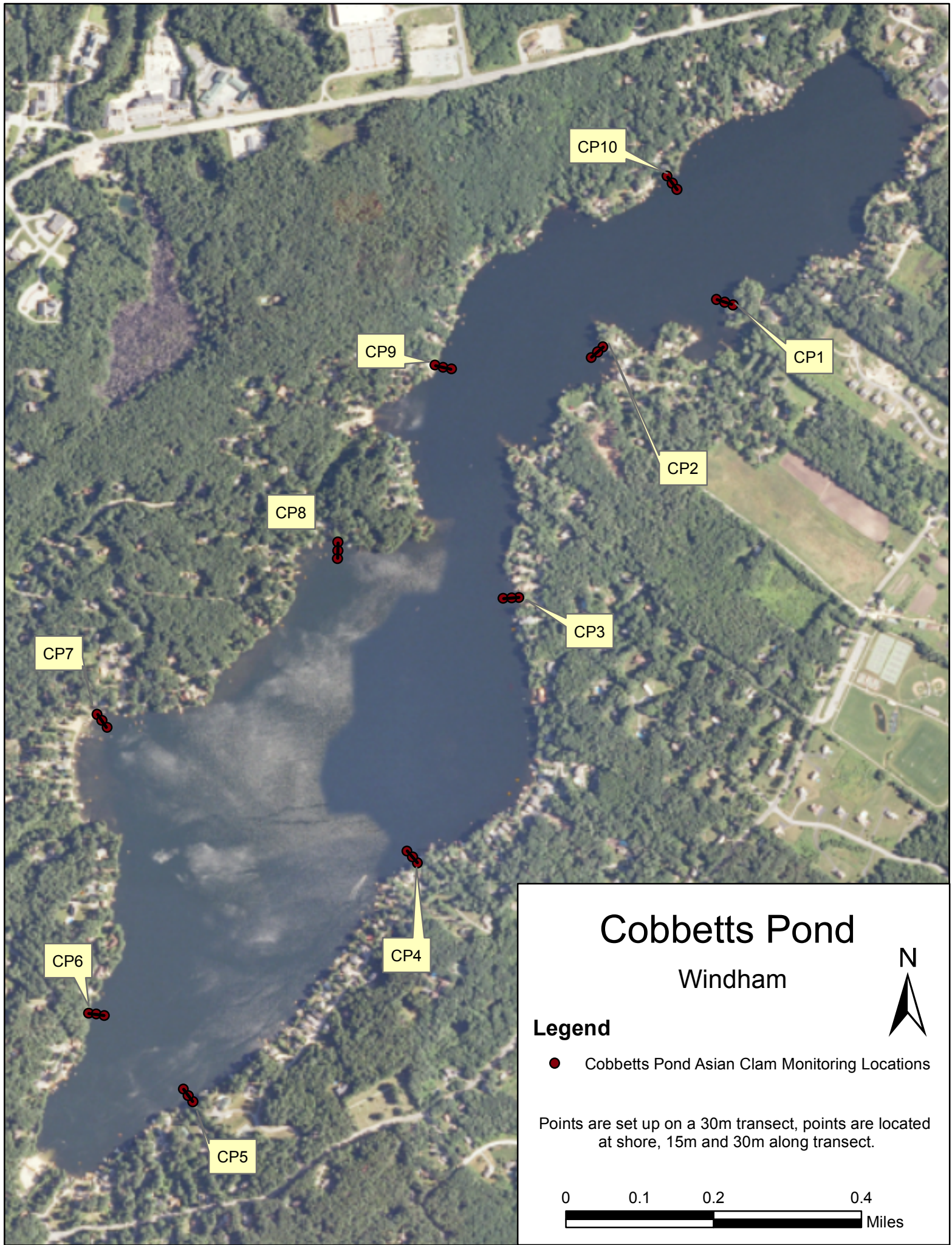
River Access

Anheiser-Busch Brewery Site  
221 Daniel Webster Highway  
Merrimack, NH 03054  
(603) 595-1202

Anheiser-Busch Brewery Site  
(MRAB)







# Cobbetts Pond

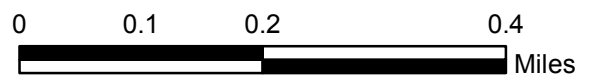
Windham



## Legend

- Cobbetts Pond Asian Clam Monitoring Locations

Points are set up on a 30m transect, points are located at shore, 15m and 30m along transect.





# Long Pond Pelham

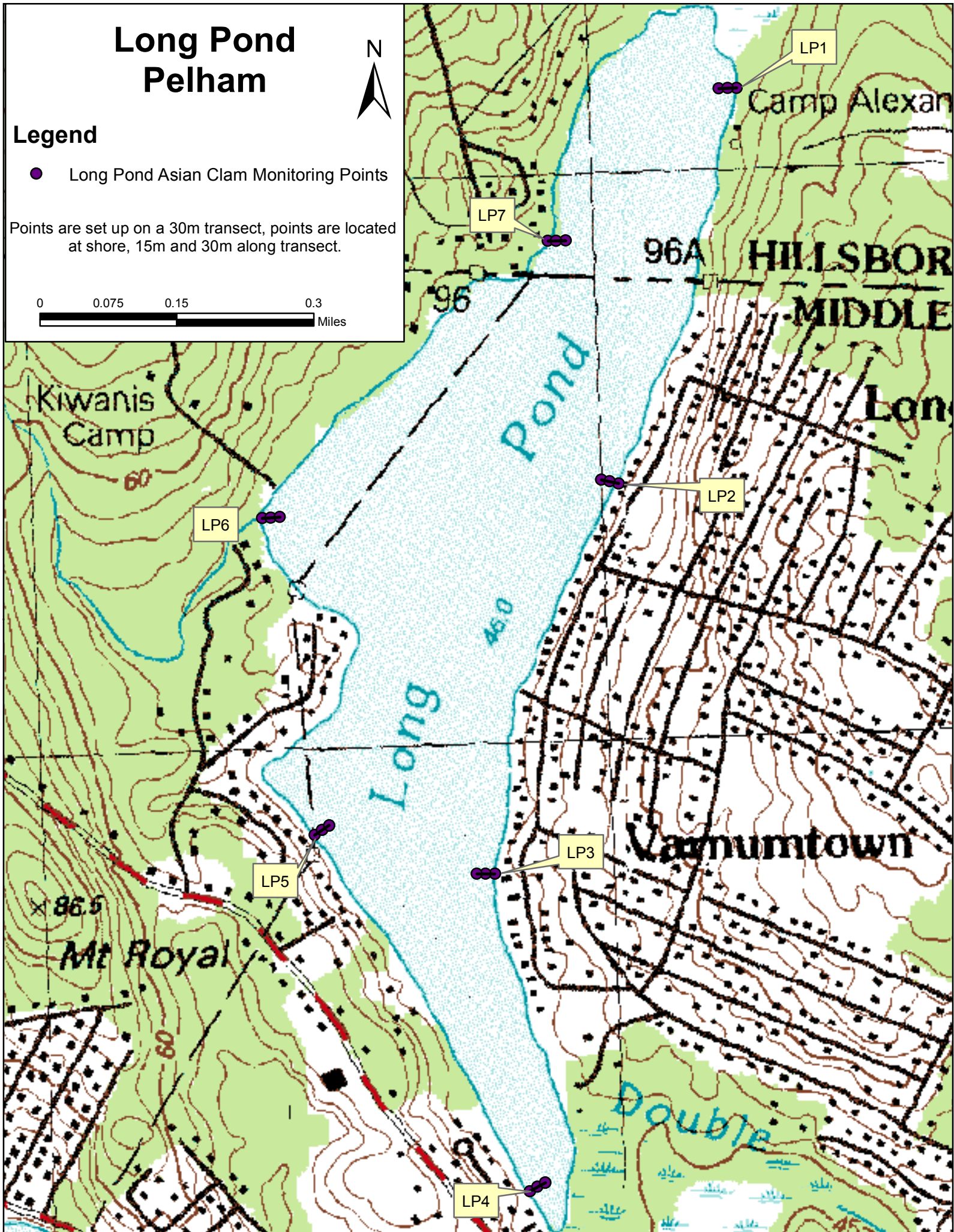


## Legend

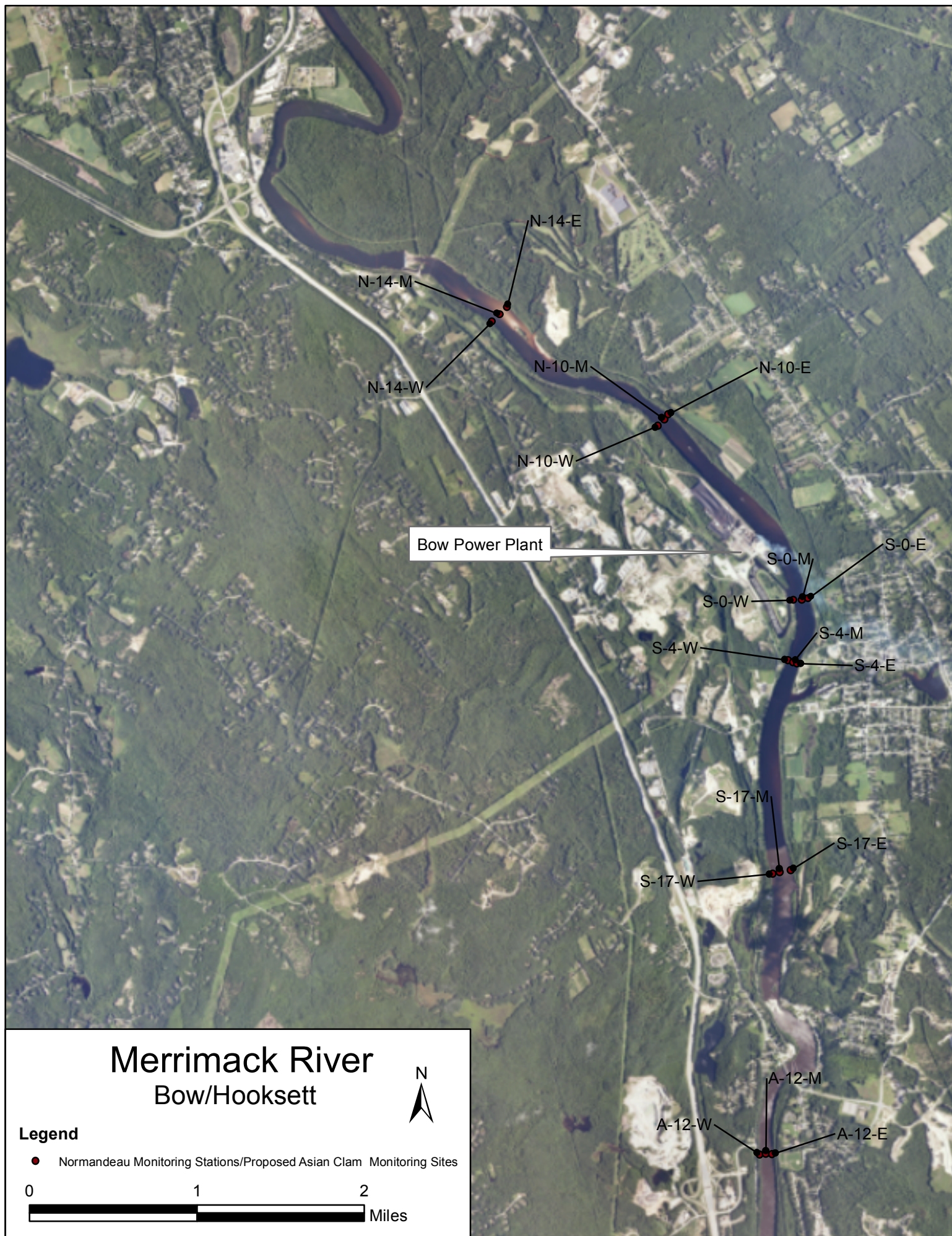
- Long Pond Asian Clam Monitoring Points

Points are set up on a 30m transect, points are located at shore, 15m and 30m along transect.

0 0.075 0.15 0.3  
Miles







| Activity                            | Activity Description                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Northern Merrimack River Site Visit | Water depth, Secchi depth, temp/DO, water column chemistry sampling, sediment collection for particle fractioning, substrate collection for mussel/clam ID and enumeration, install thermospheres, video tape transects |
| Lab Work                            | Bench top chemistry- pH, turbidity, conductivity, chloride                                                                                                                                                              |
| Southern Merrimack River Site Visit | Water depth, Secchi depth, temp/DO, water column chemistry sampling, sediment collection for particle fractioning, substrate collection for mussel/clam ID and enumeration, install thermospheres, video tape transects |
| Lab Work                            | Bench top chemistry- pH, turbidity, conductivity, chloride                                                                                                                                                              |
| Cobbetts Pond Site Visit            | Water depth, Secchi depth, temp/DO, water column chemistry sampling, sediment collection for particle fractioning, substrate collection for mussel/clam ID and enumeration, video tape transects                        |
| Lab Work                            | Bench top chemistry- pH, turbidity, conductivity, chloride                                                                                                                                                              |
| Long Pond Site Visit                | Water depth, Secchi depth, temp/DO, water column chemistry sampling, sediment collection for particle fractioning, substrate collection for mussel/clam ID and enumeration, video tape transects                        |
| Lab Work                            | Bench top chemistry- pH, turbidity, conductivity, chloride                                                                                                                                                              |
| July Chemistry Lab Work             | Chemistry- calcium                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| July Sediment Lab Work              | Sediment fractions                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| July Biology Lab Work               | Mussel/clam ID and enumeration                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Northern Merrimack River Site Visit | Water depth, Secchi depth, temp/DO, water column chemistry sampling, substrate collection for mussel/clam ID and enumeration, video tape transects                                                                      |
| Lab Work                            | Bench top chemistry- pH, turbidity, conductivity, chloride                                                                                                                                                              |
| Southern Merrimack River Site Visit | Water depth, Secchi depth, temp/DO, water column chemistry sampling, substrate collection for mussel/clam ID and enumeration, video tape transects                                                                      |
| Lab Work                            | Bench top chemistry- pH, turbidity, conductivity, chloride                                                                                                                                                              |
| Cobbetts Pond Site Visit            | Water depth, Secchi depth, temp/DO, water column chemistry sampling, substrate collection for mussel/clam ID and enumeration, video tape transects                                                                      |

| Activity                             | Activity Description                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lab Work                             | Bench top chemistry- pH, turbidity, conductivity, chloride                                                                                         |
| Long Pond Site Visit                 | Water depth, Secchi depth, temp/DO, water column chemistry sampling, substrate collection for mussel/clam ID and enumeration, video tape transects |
| Lab Work                             | Bench top chemistry- pH, turbidity, conductivity, chloride                                                                                         |
| September/October Chemistry Lab Work | Chemistry- calcium                                                                                                                                 |
| September/October Biology Lab Work   | Mussel/clam ID and enumeration                                                                                                                     |

| Timeframe                          | Staff #                              | # Days | Hours/Staff | Equipment                            | #Sample Sites/Points | Cost |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|-------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|------|
| One field day in July              | 2 EPA, 2DES                          | 1      | 16          | 2 boats                              | 18                   |      |
| 3 hours in lab                     | 1 DES Intern in DES Limnology Center | 0.3    | 3           | DES Limnology Center Benchtop Meters |                      |      |
| One field day in July              | 2 EPA, 2DES                          | 1      | 16          | 2 boats                              | 8                    |      |
| 3 hours in lab                     | 1 DES Intern in DES Limnology Center | 0.3    | 3           | DES Limnology Center Benchtop Meters |                      |      |
| One field day in July              | 2 EPA, 2DES                          | 1      | 8           | 2 boats                              | 30                   |      |
| 3 hours in lab                     | 1 DES Intern in DES Limnology Center | 0.3    | 3           | DES Limnology Center Benchtop Meters |                      |      |
| One field day in July              | 2 EPA, 2DES                          | 1      | 8           | 2 boats                              | 21                   |      |
| 3 hours in lab                     | 1 DES Intern in DES Limnology Center | 0.3    | 3           | DES Limnology Center Benchtop Meters |                      |      |
|                                    |                                      |        |             |                                      | 77                   |      |
|                                    |                                      |        |             |                                      | 77                   |      |
|                                    |                                      |        |             |                                      | 77                   |      |
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| One field day in September/October | 2 EPA, 2DES                          | 1      | 8           | 2 boats                              | 30                   |      |



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|                                    |                                      |        |             |                                      | 77                   |      |
|                                    |                                      |        |             |                                      | 77                   |      |

**Asian Clam Monitoring Program**  
**USEPA/NHDES Partnership**  
**Summer/Fall 2013**

Project: Asian Clam Monitoring Program

Justification: Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) has been identified in the Merrimack River from Hooksett through at least Merrimack, in Cobbetts Pond in Windham and in Long Pond in Pelham, New Hampshire.

There has been no field work on this invasive freshwater clam species performed in New Hampshire to date, and additional information is needed on the density of the mussels present in the three documented locations, both to understand their populations in New Hampshire's waters, and gauge potential risk to water quality, native mussels and other benthic species.

Due to the low winter temperatures and ice formation in this part of the new England Region, it is believed that the Asian clam is at the northern extent of its range, yet populations have developed and over-wintered.

Study Sites:

| Site                                   | # Transects | Total Number of Sites |
|----------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Merrimack River North (Bow/Hooksett)   | 6           | 18                    |
| Merrimack River South (Merrimack)      | 2           | 8                     |
| Cobbetts Pond, Windham (344 acre lake) | 10          | 30                    |
| Long Pond, Pelham (120 acre lake)      | 7           | 21                    |

Objective: The purpose of this study is to compare the population densities in the two lake systems with the populations within and a distance downstream of a thermal plume on the Merrimack River, which could be potentially providing ideal habitat for higher reproduction rates of the clam.

The goal of the study would be twofold: 1) Determine the densities and distributions of Asian clam within each of the three listed systems, and 2) Determine if there is a density difference in thermally influenced reaches of the Merrimack River as compared with ambient conditions in the two natural lake systems and downstream reaches of the Merrimack River where there are no human-induced thermal influences. The project would involve setting up a collaborative between EPA and DES to develop a study, collect data and analyze the data to determine if there are any differences in clam densities between and



within the systems. The project would involve some field work (diving, ponar grabs, video surveys) and laboratory work (sorting sediments, identifying and enumerating clams and other species in the samples) and data analysis.

Timing: Late May/June 2013 and Late September/October 2013

Field procedures:

Each site is sampled for the full slate of parameters in May/June 2013, then a follow up field sampling will be performed for a short list of parameters in September/October 2013.

| <b>Parameter</b>                                       | <b>Method</b>                                                         | <b>Field/Laboratory</b>                                                            | <b>July/September</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Water Depth                                            | Sonar or sounding                                                     | Field                                                                              | Both                  |
| Secchi Depth                                           | Std Method                                                            | Field                                                                              | Both                  |
| Sediment-Water Temperature/DO                          | Temp/DO Meter or Multi-probe                                          | Field                                                                              | Both                  |
| pH (water column)                                      | Multi-probe in field or sample collection then bench top meter in lab | NHDES JCLC                                                                         | Both                  |
| pH (sediment)                                          |                                                                       |                                                                                    | Both                  |
| Turbidity                                              | Bench top meter                                                       | NHDES JCLC                                                                         | Both                  |
| Conductivity                                           | Multi-probe in field or sample collection then bench top meter in lab | NHDES JCLC                                                                         | Both                  |
| Chloride                                               | Field collection and bench top meter                                  | NHDES JCLC                                                                         | Both                  |
| Calcium                                                | Sample collection and laboratory analysis                             | EPA                                                                                | Both                  |
| Flow/current velocity                                  | Flow meter following standard methods                                 | Field                                                                              | Both                  |
| Sediment Fractions                                     | Field sample collection, laboratory analysis                          | Field collection and EPA lab sorting (either by Wentworth size classes or similar) | July                  |
| Asian clam count and shell length and native mussel ID | Field sediment collection and laboratory sorting/enumeration          | Field and EPA                                                                      | Both                  |
| Long-Term Temperature Monitoring                       | Thermistors                                                           | Field                                                                              | Duration              |
| Veliger monitoring                                     | Horizontal plankton net tow                                           | Field/EPA flowcam or flow-through microscopy enumerator/ID                         | Both                  |